

Claims

- [c1] 1.A backlit display system comprising:
first and second light-transmissive side panels hingedly coupled to one another along a juncture;
a first outer end panel hingedly coupled to one of the side panels proximate a first end of the juncture; and
a second outer end panel hingedly coupled to one of the side panels proximate a second end of the juncture.
- [c2] 2.The backlit display system of claim 1,
said first and second side panels forming a generally V-shaped trough.
- [c3] 3.The backlit display system of claim 1,
said first and second end panels coupling the first and second side panels to one another proximate the first and second ends of the juncture.
- [c4] 4.The backlit display system of claim 1,
said first and second outer end panels extending substantially perpendicular to the first and second side panels.
- [c5] 5.The backlit display system of claim 1; and
a first inner end panel hingedly coupled to one of the side panels proximate the first end of the juncture; and
a second inner end panel hingedly coupled to one of the side panels proximate the second end of the juncture,

said first inner and outer end panels being hingedly coupled to opposite side panels,
said second inner and outer end panels being hingedly coupled to opposite side panels.

[c6] 6.The backlit display system of claim 5,
said first and second inner and outer end panels coupling the first and second side panels to one another proximate the first and second ends of the juncture,
said first and second inner and outer end panels extending substantially perpendicular to the first and second side panels.

[c7] 7.The backlit display system of claim 5; and
a first overlap tab hingedly coupled to the first outer end panel;
and
a second overlap tab hingedly coupled to the second outer end panel,
at least a portion of said first inner end panel being received between the first outer end panel and the first overlap tab,
at least a portion of said second inner end panel being received between the second outer end panel and the second overlap tab.

[c8] 8.The backlit display system of claim 7,
said first outer end panel, said first inner end panel, and said first overlap tab defining aligned first openings,
said second outer end panel, said second inner end panel,

and said second overlap tab defining aligned second openings.

[c9] 9.The backlit display system of claim 8; and
a first fastener extending through the first openings to thereby couple the first outer end panel, the first inner end panel, and the first overlap tab to one another,
a second fastener extending through the second openings to thereby couple the second outer end panel, the second inner end panel, and the second overlap tab to one another.

[c10] 10.The backlit display system of claim 9; and
a first hook coupled to the first outer end panel, first inner end panel, and first overlap tab by the first fastener,
a second hook coupled to the second outer end panel, second inner end panel, and second overlap tab by the second fastener.

[c11] 11.The backlit display system of claim 5; and
a first connection tab hingedly coupled to one of the first inner and outer end panels;
a first connection slot defined in the other of the first inner and outer end panels;
a second connection tab hingedly coupled to one of the second inner and outer end panels; and
a second connection slot defined in the other of the second inner and outer end panels,

said first and second connection tabs being received in the first and second connection slots, respectively.

[c12] 12. The backlit display system of claim 1; and
a first side flange hingedly coupled to the first side panel and extending substantially parallel to the direction of extension of the juncture; and
a second side flange hingedly coupled to the second side panel and extending substantially parallel to the direction of extension of the juncture,
said first side flange extending in a direction which is transverse to the direction of extension of the first side panel,
said second side flange extending in a direction which is transverse to the direction of extension of the second side panel.

[c13] 13. The backlit display system of claim 1,
said display system being shiftable between a collapsed configuration and an assembled configuration,
said side panels extending from the juncture at an angle of less than 10 degrees relative to one another when the display system is in the collapsed configuration,
said side panels extending from the juncture at an angle of greater than 10 degrees relative to one another when the display system is in the assembled configuration.

[c14] 14. The backlit display system of claim 13,

said first and second side panels forming a generally V-shaped trough when the display system is in the assembled configuration,

said first and second outer end panels extending between and coupled to the first and second side panels when the display system is in the assembled configuration, thereby supporting the side panels relative to one another.

[c15] 15.The backlit display system of claim 13,
said end panels being folded over the side panels when the display system is in the collapsed configuration.

[c16] 16.The backlit display system of claim 13,
said end panels being disposed between the side panels when the display system is in the collapsed configuration.

[c17] 17.The backlit display system of claim 13,
said display system having a maximum thickness of less than about 4 inches when in the collapsed configuration.

[c18] 18.The backlit display system of claim 13,
said display system having a minimum thickness when in the assembled configuration that is at least twice the maximum thickness of the display system when in the collapsed configuration.

[c19] 19.A method of displaying information, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) shifting a display system from a substantially collapsed configuration to an assembled configuration, said assembled display system including a generally V-shaped trough and a pair of end panels hingedly coupled to generally opposite ends of the trough; and

(b) mounting the assembled display system on a support structure surrounding a light fixture by fastening the end panels to the support structure.

[c20] 20. The method of claim 19,
said V-shaped trough including first and second side panels hingedly coupled at a juncture,
step (a) including pivoting the first and second side panels relative to one another through a first pivot angle of at least 10 degrees,
step (a) including pivoting one of the end panels relative to the first side panel through a second pivot angle of at least 30 degrees,
step (a) including pivoting the other of the end panels relative to the second side panel through a third pivot angle of at least 30 degrees.

[c21] 21. The method of claim 20,
step (a) including pivoting the first and second side panels relative to one another through a first pivot angle of at least 20 degrees,

step (a) including pivoting one of the end panels relative to the first side panel through a second pivot angle of at least 60 degrees,

step (a) including pivoting the other of the end panels relative to the second side panel through a third pivot angle of at least 60 degrees.

[c22] 22. The method of claim 20,
step (a) including pivoting the first and second side panels relative to one another through a first pivot angle in the range of from 30 to 60 degrees,
step (a) including pivoting one of the end panels relative to the first side panel through a second pivot angle in the range of from 75 to 105 degrees,
step (a) including pivoting the other of the end panels relative to the second side panel through a third pivot angle in the range of from 75 to 105 degrees.

[c23] 23. The method of claim 19,
step (a) including coupling each of the end panels between the first and second side panels to thereby support the side panels in a generally V-shaped configuration.

[c24] 24. The method of claim 19,
step (a) including coupling a hook to each of the end panels.

[c25] 25. The method of claim 24,

step (b) including coupling the hooks to the support structure.

[c26] 26.A method of making a backlit display system, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a display body integrally formed from a substantially flat sheet of light-transmissive material, said display body comprising a generally rectangular main panel and first and second end panels extending from generally opposite ends of the main panel;

(b) folding the display body along a main bend line extending through the main panel to thereby manipulate the main panel into a generally V-shaped trough having a first side panel and a second side panel, said first and second end panels extending from generally opposite ends of the trough;

(c) folding the first and second end panels so that the first and second end panels extend substantially perpendicular to the first and second side panels;

(d) using the first end panel to couple the first and second side panels to one another at one end of the trough; and

(e) using the second end panel to couple the first and second side panels to one another at the other end of the trough.

[c27] 27.The method of claim 27; and

(f) coupling a first hook to the first end panel; and

(g) coupling a second hook to the second end panel.